# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:718
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2007
ALTERNATIVE FUEL IN THE FORM OF LPG FOR BACKWARD AND HILLY AREAS
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**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has made efforts to explore an alternative fuel in the form of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the country specifically backward and hilly areas of the country and Himachal Pradesh to preserve and to check deforestation in the country;

(a) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which Government will consider and explore it?

## Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b) : LPG is a clean and environmental friendly fuel. Use of LPG has progressively increased to cover nearly 48.6% of the country's population as on 31.3.2007. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are serving 9.43 crore (approx.) LPG customers as on 31.3.2007, out of whom 2.15 crore (approx.) are in rural areas. In Himachal Pradesh, OMCs have 12.10 lakh LPG customers, covering nearly 99% of the population based on the 2001 Census.

OMCs have also introduced 5 Kg domestic LPG cylinders with effect from August 2002 in order to meet the demand of low-income groups in urban, semi-urban and rural pockets and also extend the reach of LPG to the hilly terrain and interior areas in the country, including Himachal Pradesh, on account of convenience in transportation. As on 30.06.2007, there are 3.86 lakh LPG customers of such cylinders in the country including 0.11 lakh in Himachal Pradesh.

(c)&(d) : Does not arise.